

# Libby Community Advisory Group

Fall 2007

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## Presentation Overview

- What is the Cleanup About?
- Why Does the CAG Exist?
- CAG History
- Purpose
- Membership
- Accomplishments
- Current Work Plan
- What We Need from You

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## What is this cleanup about?

- The EPA has been working in Libby since 1999 when an Emergency Response Team investigated local concerns about asbestos-contaminated vermiculite.
- The area has been designated a "Superfund Cleanup Site" and the EPA has been working to clean up contamination and reduce risks to human health.

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## Cleaning up outside...



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## Cleaning up inside...



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## The Monster Vac!



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## The Monster Vac!



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## Why Does the CAG Exist?

- One of the ways communities can participate in site cleanup decisions is by forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG).
- Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.
- The EPA does not control the way each CAG is formed or the topics it discusses.

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## Why Does the CAG Exist?

- A CAG is a committee, task force, or board made up of a diverse collection of community people affected by a hazardous waste site or other environmental problems.
- Forming a CAG is one of the most effective ways community members can help decide how to clean up the site or deal with other environmental issues.

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## Why Does the CAG Exist?

- The CAG provides a public forum where community members can discuss their concerns about the site.
- The CAG is also a communication conduit to Montana's Congressional delegation (state and federal).

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## Why Does the CAG Exist?

- A CAG can assist the EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site.
- It offers the EPA a unique opportunity to hear and seriously consider community preferences for site cleanup and remediation.
- The existence of a CAG does not eliminate the need for the EPA to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the Superfund process.

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## History

- Libby has had a CAG for many years.
- The Libby CAG first met on February 3, 2000
- Until March 2002, the Libby CAG generally met twice a month. It has met once a month since then.
- CAG meetings have consisted of two parts:
  - Discussions of topics of interest to the CAG
  - Reports from the EPA and state and local agencies/organizations

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## History

- As of November 10, 2004, three additional CAG responsibilities were added:
  - Facilitating the creation of new organizations as needed;
  - Initiating the release of relevant information; and
  - Serving as a point of contact between the Libby community, Montana's Governor and other elected officials.

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## Accomplishments

- Through August 2007, the CAG has met 105 times!
- The CAG has provided a community forum at which more than 65 federal, state and local government officials, attorneys, and researchers have provided information and answered questions.

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## Accomplishments

- The CAG has been instrumental in 3 critical decisions for Libby:
  - Convinced Governor Martz to use the “silver bullet” to place Libby on the Superfund National Priorities List;
  - Encouraged the EPA to remove asbestos-contaminated insulation from Libby businesses and residences; and
  - Insisted that the EPA conduct a toxicological study to determine the safe level of cleanup for Libby.

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## Accomplishments

- The CAG has insisted to both state and federal officials that a solution for Libby must include:
  - Clean up of all contamination along with long-term monitoring;
  - Provision of medical screening, care, and research;
  - Appropriate compensation for victims; and
  - Restoration of business vitality.

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## Accomplishments

- The CAG has:
  - Written numerous letters to federal and state officials and other parties such as W.R. Grace.
  - Testified at several public hearings requesting funding and actions related to the asbestos cleanup and the provision of health care for those suffering from asbestos-related diseases.

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## Accomplishments

- Specific requests the CAG has made include:
  - Funding for the CARD Clinic and asbestos-related disease research;
  - Funding for the Lincoln County Community Health Center;
  - Holding Libby area businesses and residences harmless from asbestos contamination cleanup costs;
  - Funding from the Montana legislature to provide short-term support for asbestos-related health care services;
  - Maintenance of an adequate EPA budget for the Libby cleanup.

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## Membership

- CAG members are self-selected.
- Membership qualifications – Must be willing to:
  - Act as communication conduit between the EPA and members of the Libby and Troy communities,
  - Attend CAG meetings or send an alternative in their place, and
  - Have his or her name and telephone number published in the local newspapers.

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## Membership – Original List

- **Ron Anderson, Director**
  - Lincoln County Environmental Health
- **Kerry Beasley, Board Chair**
  - St. Johns Lutheran Hospital
- **Linda Beaulieu**
  - Chamber of Commerce
- **Gayla Benefield**
  - Lincoln County Asbestos Victims Relief Organization
- **Mayor Tony Berget**
  - City of Libby
- **Dr. Brad Black**
  - Lincoln County Health Officer

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## Membership – Original List

- **Grayson Casey, Realtor**
  - Kootenai Homes and Land Realty
- **Susan Feedback, Realtor**
  - Kootenai Homes and Land Realty
- **Ralph Heinert**
  - Community Member
- **John Konzen**
  - Lincoln County Commissioner
- **David Latham, Editor**
  - The Montanian
- **Cyrus Lee**
  - Kootenai Valley Headstart

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## Membership – Original List

- **Denis Leonhardt**
  - Concerned Citizen
- **Kirby Maki, Superintendent**
  - Libby School District
- **Wally Moreau**
  - Former W.R. Grace employee
- **Les Nelson**
  - Ministerial Association
- **Rick Palagi, CEO**
  - St. Johns Lutheran Hospital Inc.
- **Carol Ray**
  - Montana Covering Kids

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## Membership – Original List

- **Norita Skramstad**
  - Asbestos Victims
- **Mike Switzer**
  - Retired W.R. Grace employee
- **Leroy Thom**
  - Former Union President
- **Bob Tunis, Director**
  - Economic Development Council, Inc.
- **Don Wilkins**
  - Lumber and Sawmill Workers #2581
- **Lloyd Douglas Williamson**
  - Taxpayer

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## Membership – Original List

- **Wilbur Wilson, President**
  - Lincoln County Council on Aging
- **Rita Windom**
  - Lincoln County Commissioner
- **Bob Zimmerman**
  - Cabinet Resource Group

**A total of 27 names!**

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## Membership – Current List

- **Dr. Brad Black**, Lincoln County Health Officer
- **Eileen Carney**, Montana Board of Respiratory Care
- **Mike Giesey**, Center for Asbestos Related Disease
- **Kenny Hays**, Libby Senior Citizens
- **David Latham**, Editor, The Montanian
- **Kirby Maki**, Superintendent, Libby School District
- **Bill Patten**, St. John's Lutheran Hospital
- **DC Orr**, City of Libby
- **Gary Swenson**, Libby Volunteer Fire Department
- **Leroy Thom**, former W.R. Grace employee
- **Rita Windom**, Lincoln County Commissioner

**A total of 11 names!**

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## More Members are Needed!

- The current members of the CAG are concerned that the group may not be meeting the community's needs.
- The CAG has developed a survey in an effort to gauge the community's knowledge about the CAG and
- To determine what changes local residents would like to see in the scope and mission of the group.

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## Plans for the future...

- Identifying a funding source to meet Lincoln County's need for the long-term provision of asbestos exposure related health care.
- Ensuring that a scientifically valid risk assessment is completed in a timely manner so that the cleanup protects the health of Lincoln County.
- Providing advice to EPA about the cleanup budget priorities for the coming fiscal year.

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## Plans for the future...

- Obtaining the funding appropriated by the 2007 Montana Legislature to help provide health services over the coming biennium.
- Reorganizing the CAG to better serve the local Libby and Troy communities.
- Recruiting more CAG members!!!

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## What Does the CAG Need? You!!

- Participate on the CAG.
  - A broadly unified community voice helps us get the funding and actions we need to ensure an adequate cleanup, obtain health care, and revitalize our local economy.
- Complete our survey.

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## Questions?

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Thank You!

M. Ke C.

Export Permit

ST. Louis  
A.35/A.35-T A.35 TLR

Allegations

- Data Reports

- Lobby Creek

- Construction

- H. A. C.

- Demos

- Restoration

- OUs

MINE  
PA

- A.A.



1073929

**1 Site Name:** Libby Asbestos

**2 SSID#:** 08-BC

**3 Operable Unit(s) and Names (circle all that apply):**

- 00 Sitewide
- 01 Export Plant
- 02 Screening Plant
- 03 Road/Mine
- 04 Remedial (Town)
- 05 Stimson
- 06 BNSF
- 07 Troy

**4 Phase Activity (both apply) - ER/Time Critical & Remedial RI/FS**

**5 Access Code(s):**

Public (Releasable) -OR-

**Privileged (Not Releasable) (Circle type(s) below)**

- Attorney Work Product
- Deliberative Process claimed
- OGC OK
- Attorney-Client Communication
- CBI Claimed
- CBI Determined
- Enforcement Confidential
- Privacy

**6 Special Instructions or Notes:**

**7 AR and other Special Collections (circle all that apply):**

**Working Administrative Record Collection(s)**  
(circle all that apply):

- General Remedial collection
- OU1 working AR collection (export plant)
- OU2 working AR collection (screening plant)
- OU3 working AR collection (mine & roads)
- OU4 working AR collection (town)
- OU5 working AR collection (Stimson)
- OU6 working AR collection (BNSF)
- OU7 working AR collection (Troy)
- Removal(s) 2008 AR collection

**CLOSED AR COLLECTIONS - DO NOT**  
**ADD ANY DOCUMENTS TO THESE ARs:**  
 Libby Working Remedial AR  
 Export/Screening AR  
 AR Supplement #1  
 AR Supplement #2  
 AR Supplement #3  
 AR Supplement #4

**Special Collections (circle all that apply):**

- Sitewide Community Involvement
- Work Performed Document

**8 SIGNATURES:**

Submitter's Signature 

Attorney's Signature 

Date: 7/14/08

Date: 7-15-08